AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the Abstract of the Disclosure with the following rewritten Abstract which appears on a separate sheet.

Page 1, before line 4, insert the following heading:

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--

Page 2, replace the paragraph beginning on line 4, which was added in the Preliminary Amendment of March 25, 2002, with the following amended paragraph:

--Another method described in document US-A-5 625 767 enables ~~thermatic~~ thematic classification to be performed on the basis of a statistical analysis of the document. However, that method requires the documents to be manually ~~classifed~~ classified beforehand.--

Page 2, between lines 9 and 10, insert the following heading:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--

Page 2, replace the paragraph beginning on line 10 and bridging pages 2 and 3 with the following amended paragraph:

--The invention thus provides a method of thematically classifying documents, in particular for making up or updating thematic databases for a search engine, the method being characterized in that it comprises the following steps:

- selecting a sample of documents representative of each theme;

- identifying within the selected documents elements that are characteristic of each theme;

- allocating a coefficient to each identified element, which coefficient is representative of the relevance of said element relative to the corresponding theme;

- downloading documents from a computer network;

- for each downloaded document to be classified, identifying said theme-characterizing elements that are contained in the document for each of the themes, and for each theme corresponding to the documents, using the coefficients allocated to said elements to calculate ~~the~~ a characteristic value ~~of a characteristic~~ representative of the relevance of that theme for the document[[,]] in order to decide whether or not the document relates to the theme, said theme-characterizing elements identification and calculation steps being performed automatically for each document downloaded from [[a]] the computer network;

- classifying the downloaded documents as a function of the themes with which they deal; and

- storing the documents classified thematically in databases that can be interrogated on the basis of themes contained in a request;

and in that the step of allocating said coefficient to each identified element comprises the following steps for each theme:

- calculating [[the]] a frequency of the element in the selected documents relating to the theme;

- calculating [[the]] a frequency of the element in the selected documents that do not relate to the theme; and

- calculating the ratio of the calculated frequencies.-

Page 4, replace the paragraph beginning on line 23 and bridging pages 4 and 5 with the following amended paragraph:

--The invention also provides a module for thematically classifying documents, in particular for a search engine, the module being characterized in that it comprises a central processor unit having means for comparing elements extracted from each document with elements characteristic of various themes, each element being allocated a coefficient representative of the relevance of said element for a corresponding theme, and means for calculating ~~the~~ a characteristic value ~~of at least one characteristic~~ representative of the relevance of a theme for the document on the basis of the coefficients of said characteristic elements that the document contains, in order to decide whether or not the document relates to said theme, said central unit being connected to means for storing documents classified by theme that can be interrogated on the basis of themes contained in a request, and in that the module has means for calculating the frequency of the element in the selected documents relating to the theme, means for calculating the frequency of the element in the selected documents that do not relate to the theme, and

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means for calculating the ratio between the calculated frequencies.--

Page 5, between lines 17 and 18, insert the following heading:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--

Page 5, between lines 28 and 29, insert the following heading:

--DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--

Page 9, replace the paragraph beginning on line 6 with the following amended paragraph:

--To perform this calculation, the classification module begins by calculating the mean value R_{mean} of the ratios R of the characteristic elements of each theme ~~(step 36)~~.--

Page 9, replace the paragraph beginning on line 22 with the following amended paragraph:

--After this stage of acquiring thematic vocabulary, implemented using a corpus of documents representative of various themes, the second stage of thematic classification proper can be performed in order to make up thematic databases given overall numerical reference 42 from documents 50 collected automatically from the computer network by robots such as 44.--

Page 9, replace the paragraph beginning on line 29 with the following amended paragraph:

--These documents 50 are input to the thematic classification module which also receives an indication of the

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theme nomenclature 18 and the elements available from the outcome of above-mentioned step 34. This module proceeds automatically to calculate the themes on which a document relates (step 46).--

Page 11, replace the paragraph beginning on line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

--It will be understood that this procedure for automatically calculating the themes of documents 50 downloaded by the robots 44 enables the indexing module of a search engine to classify these documents as a function of the themes dealt with and to build up the thematic databases 42.--